



# DELTA

## WORKFORCE



## PROGRAM

Technical Assistance  
Workshop | Memphis, TN

November 9, 2023

# Presenter



Cheyton Pendley  
Workforce Program Analyst  
Delta Regional Authority

# OVERVIEW

## Funding Opportunity

Award Ceiling: **\$450,000**

Award Floor: **\$50,000**

## Technical Assistance

- Pre-Award Technical Assistance Workshop
- Virtual TA Workshop | Thursday, Nov. 16 at 2:00 PM CST
- Virtual Office Hours with DRA Workforce Team
- Post-Award Technical Assistance



# Application Submission

- ✓ Applications must be submitted via the online portal, no later than **Thursday, December 21, 2023 at 11:59 PM Central Time.**
- ✓ LINK: <https://dra.communityforce.com/Login.aspx>
- ✓ DRA will **not** accept hardcopy or email submissions.
- ✓ Anticipated start date will be April or May 2024.





# Delta Workforce Grant Program

## PROGRAM PURPOSE

### GOAL

*“...create a more vibrant economic future for the Delta region by expanding recruitment, training and retaining career opportunities, aligning workforce, educational, and economic development strategies; creating sustainable talent pipelines, establishing or enhancing locally/regionally significant public-private partnerships, and supporting enhanced workforce productivity through investments in innovative programming.”*



# Program Description

## **This program is designed to support projects that:**

1. Develop or enhance cross-sector partnerships.
2. Deliver specific workforce services meeting identified local or regional needs.
3. Create or expand workforce training programs addressing high quality employment opportunities.
4. Support the delivery of quality, innovative training and workforce services.



# DRA's Strategic Investment Goals

**Applications must address one or more of these goals:**

- *Invest in Public Infrastructure*
- *Nurture Local Workforce Ecosystems*
- *Promote Business Growth and Entrepreneurship*
- *Support Community Place-Making and Capacity-Building*



# DWP Investment Priorities

## INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

- Supporting Industry-Led Workforce Training
- Building Collaborative Talent Pipelines
- Supporting or Enhancing Industry Clusters
- Accelerating Local or Regional Economic Development





# Supporting Industry-Led Workforce Training

## 2019 Project Example

- Black River Technical College
  - CDL Program





# DWP BRTC CDL Program



# Building Collaborative Talent Pipelines

## 2021 Project Example

Tennessee College of  
Applied Technology – Covington

- Electrical Vehicle  
Technology Program







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# Supporting or Enhancing Industry Clusters

## 2020 Project Example

### Missouri State University – West Plains

- Training individuals for careers in manufacturing







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Accelerating  
Local or  
Regional  
Economic  
Development

## 2021 Project Example

### Arkansas Rural Health Partnership

- Boosting Delta nurse numbers through training, recruitment, and retention by partners for Delta resident care





# Period of Performance

- You may determine the time-period for your project. However, the period of performance shall not exceed twenty-four (24) months.
- Period of performance begins once the Notice to Proceed is received.
- This period includes all necessary implementation and start-up activities.



# Eligible Participants

- New entrants to the workforce
- Dislocated workers
- Incumbent workers





# Eligible Activities

- Training and Work-Based Learning Models
- Other Employment Related Activities
- Innovative Service Delivery Strategies
- Participant Support Services
- Employer Support Services
- Purchasing Equipment and Making Renovations



# Cost Sharing & Matching

Applicants must demonstrate a TEN percent cost share (cash or in-kind) match at minimum, by non - DRA sources.

Allowable funding sources are private, non-federal, other federal\*, or a combination of sources.

***\*Some federal entities have specific funding limitations on federal dollars.***



# Cost Sharing & Matching

Applicants located in/serving distressed counties or parishes ***DO NOT*** need to demonstrate a match of any kind.



# Project Team

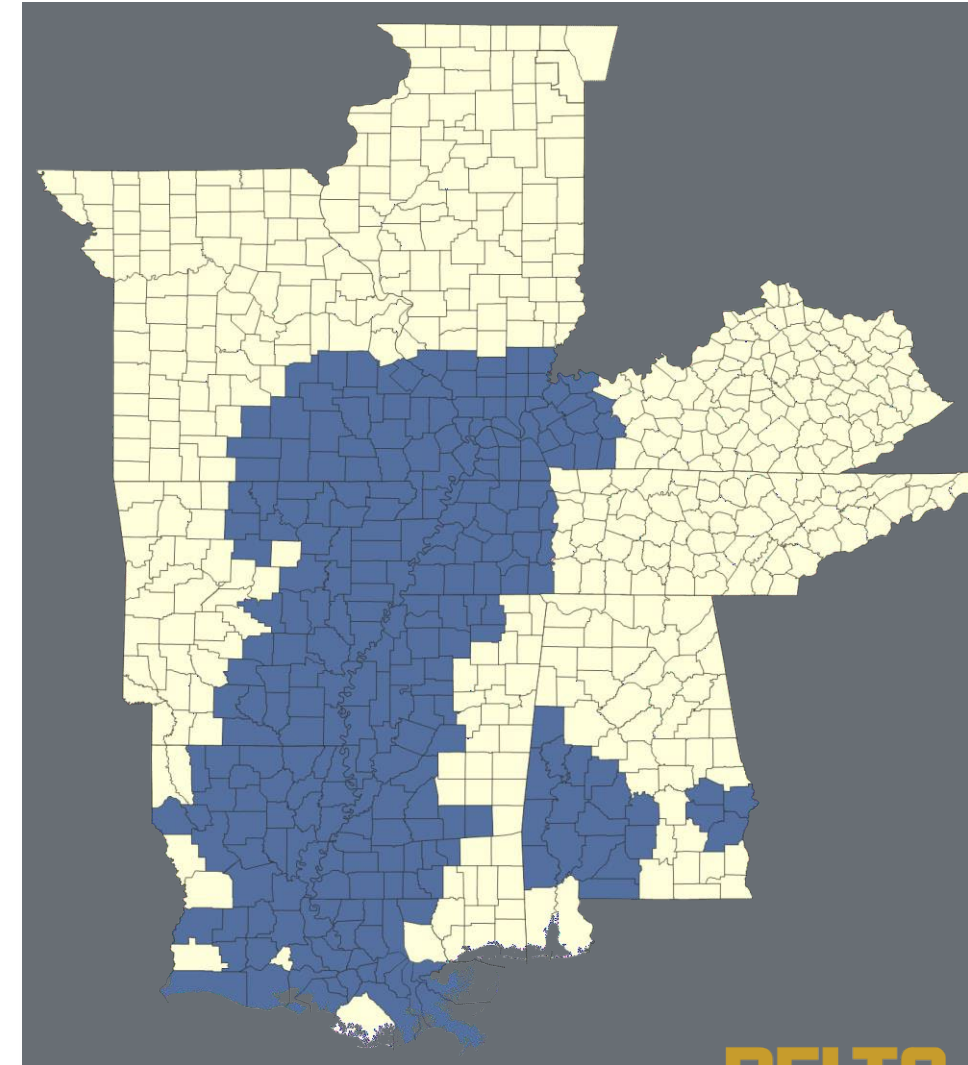
- It is ***NOT*** a requirement for ***all*** members of a project team to be located within the DRA region, however one (1) ***must*** be located within the Region.
- Projects ***MUST*** provide benefits to the communities served within the DRA region.

***\*ANY eligible member of a project team may serve as the applicant.***



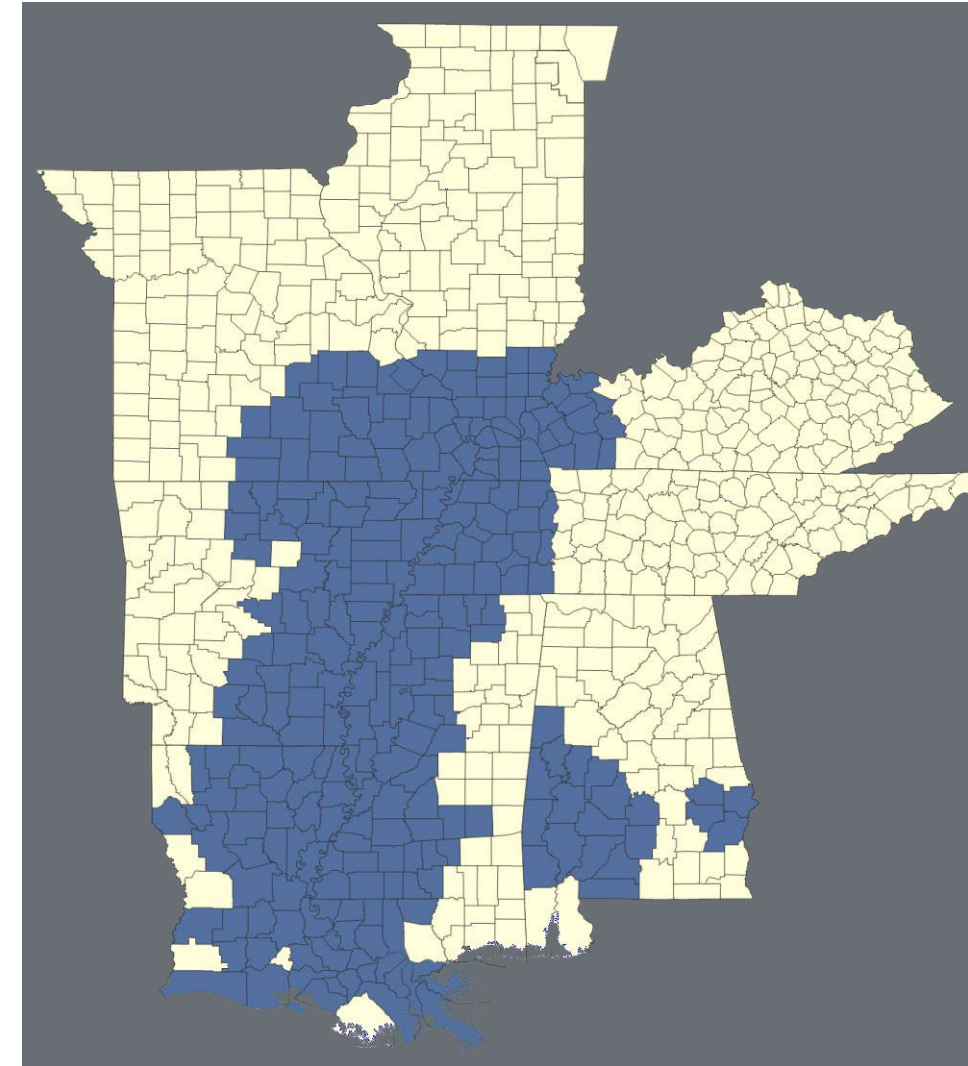
# Application Requirements

- Applicants must demonstrate collaboration/engagement with at least one employer/industry partner.
- Applicants must demonstrate that they are serving eligible participants who live and work in the **DRA Region**.



# Application Requirements

- Applicants may train for jobs outside the DRA Region, but must clearly demonstrate successful employment will not require relocation outside of the DRA Region.
- Applicants **must** demonstrate evidence of high-growth industries and a demand for skilled workers local or regionally.





# Scoring Criteria

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1. Project Information – *60 Points*
2. Anticipated Project Outcomes – *6 Points*
3. Work Plan – *16 Points*
4. Evidence of Local Demand/Employer Letters – *15 Points*
5. Funding Information – *3 Points*



# Project Information



Project Description – 25 Points



Project Rationale – 25 Points



Project Team and Relevant Experience – 5 Points



Local and Regional Collaboration – 5 Points



# Project Description

25 Points

- Description of Project Service Area and Community Needs – *7 Points*
- Project Design – *15 Points*
- Demonstration of Inclusion in Persistent Poverty County/Parish – *3 Points*

# Project Rationale

25 Points

- Description of Workforce Needs – *12 Points*
- Alignment with DRA's Strategic Investment Goals – *3 Points*
- Alignment with DWP Investment Priorities, Objectives, and Funding Principles – *7 Points*
- Alignment with Local Workforce or Economic Development Priorities – *3 Points*

Project  
Team and  
Relevant  
Experience  
5 Points

## Local and Regional Collaboration

- Demonstration of Local and Regional Partnerships – *3 Points*
- Demonstration of Partnership(s) with HBCU and/or Federally Recognized Tribe(s) – *2 Points*

# Anticipated Project Outcomes

6 Points



Demonstration of Realistic and  
Attainable Outcomes



Demonstration of Specific and  
Relevant Outcomes



# Reporting Anticipating Outcomes

Anticipated Project Outcomes, at a minimum **MUST** include:

- Jobs Retained
- Jobs Created
- Individuals Trained
- Number of Communities Served



# Work Plan

## 16 Points



Project Deliverables –  
12 Points



Project Timeline –  
4 Points



# Evidence of Workforce Demand/Employer Needs/ Letters - 15 Points

- Demonstration of Workforce Demand from Local/Regional Employers – 5 Points
- Evidence of Employer Engagement – 10 Points



- Funding Information – 3 Points
- Budget/Budget Narrative Alignment – 3 Points



# Requested Attachments

- Employer Letter(s)
- Verification of Matching Funds
- Key Staff Resumes
- Job Descriptions (if applicable)



# Application Portal

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- Applications will be pre-screened to determine eligibility and completeness, and you will be notified during the process of request or explanations needed to clarify questions that DRA may have, concerning your application.
- Ensure that the contact person on the application has a current information and can make the necessary changes to the application.
- Make sure that all parts of your application are complete and that all your responses are placed in the specific sections, for that response.
- Before submitting application/proposal please print out a copy of your complete application.



# Application Review

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- Applications will be pre-screened to determine eligibility and completeness.
- Applications are reviewed by a panel and scored individually against the elements in the FOA Section F.
- The total number of grants awarded will depend upon the number of competitive applications and the amounts requested.





# Questions?

